

Amdt. Dated 6/5/2006
Reply to Office Action of February 3, 2006

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging receipt of Applicants' Request for Continued Examination. In regard to the Examiner's objection to the specification set forth in paragraph 2 of the Examiner's office action, Applicants have modified the referenced claim language in accordance with the Examiner's request. Accordingly, in light of foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection set forth in paragraph 2 of the Examiner's action.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the prior art rejections set forth by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. sections 102 and 103. Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art references of record, whether considered alone, or in combination, fail to either teach or suggest Applicants presently claimed invention.

More specifically, by this amendment, Applicants have modified independent claims 2 and 7 for the purpose of clarifying the claimed subject matter. In particular, Applicants have modified these claims to further specify that the magnetic head structure includes an auxiliary member that is adhered to the magnetic recording head at the leading side and/or a trailing side in the traveling direction on the magnetic recording medium. Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art references of record cited by the Examiner fail to provide any teaching or suggestion whatsoever regarding Applicants invention as now claimed.

It is important to recognize several significant distinctions between the cited prior art set forth by the Examiner in rejecting Applicants claims and the subject matter disclosed and claimed in the instant application. Applicants note that the head and head core configuration described in the JP 63 -- 10 8515 of Shoji and the structure described in United States patent number 5,812,350 by Chen are each directed to a magnetic disk recording medium such as a hard disk drive wherein the head floats over the disc on an air cushion and the head is located at the rear end of a slider mechanism and there is no

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wide auxiliary member at the trailing side of the head slider. Similarly, the Neuman reference fails to disclose or suggest the presently claimed invention having the structure as now specified.


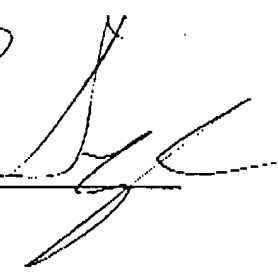
In sharp contrast with the cited art, the thin film magnetic head described in the present application is actually for a magnetic tape recording/reproducing device and particularly for a helical scan tape recording which employs a head drum and has a pair of auxiliary members such as the structures 22a and 22b described in the instant application which are adhered onto preferably both sides (the leading and trailing sides) of the thin film magnetic recording head 21. During the recording operation, the head is in contact with the tape recording medium and the presently claimed head configuration advantageously eliminates undesired mechanical stress and wear thereby improving the longevity of the device.

Applicants respectfully submit that the remaining prior art references cited by the Examiner failed to provide any teaching or suggestion whatsoever regarding this advance in the art. Furthermore, Applicants note that the Ozue reference the United States patent number 6,801,379 similarly fails to teach or suggest Applicants presently claimed invention in that neither this reference nor the remaining references of record teach or suggest Applicants auxiliary structure as now specified.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

6/5/06



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